



#4 GP/3761

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Thomas Patrick Ryan Examiner: Glenn Dawson
Serial No.: 09/992,301 Group: Art Unit 3761
Filed: November 14, 2001 Docket: 2089CON2 (203-2413 CON 2)
For: APPARATUS AND METHOD Date: March 20, 2002
 FOR SEALING AND CUTTING
 TISSUE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicant's duty of disclosure, the information listed in the attached form PTO-1449 is brought to the attention of the Examiner. A copy of the listed items is enclosed.

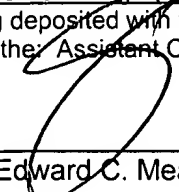
Applicant also encloses herewith copies of the PTO-1449 and PTO-892 Forms which were included with the parent application Serial No. 09/591,328.

The citation of the listed item is not a representation that it constitutes a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that the references are prior art. The item listed is submitted in good faith, but is not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of this particular item, it will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on March 20, 2002.

Dated: March 20, 2002



Edward C. Meagher

The filing of this information disclosure statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

- ☐ This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of this application.
- ☐ This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application.
- ☒ To the best of Applicant(s) knowledge, this information disclosure statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action on the merits in connection with this case.
- ☐ Enclosed herewith is a certificate under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ Enclosed herewith is a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)(ii).
 - ☐ Enclosed by check is the petition fee of \$130.00. (37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1))

☐ Please charge the \$130.00 petition fee to Deposit Account
No. 50-2140.

☐ Enclosed by check is the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R.
§1.17(p).

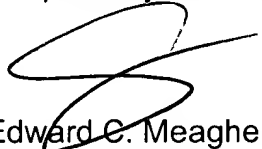
☐ Please charge the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to
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☒ Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which
may become due under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time
during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment
of such fee(s) to Deposit Account 50-2140. Also, in the event any
extensions of time for responding are required for the pending
application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend the
time as required and charge Deposit Account No. 50-2140 therefor.

TWO (2) COPIES OF THIS SHEET ARE ENCLOSED.

The claims of the application as now presented are believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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